

Message Text

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46

ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 246651

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, OTRA, BT

SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO AMCIT

REF: NEW DELHI 14440

1. DEPARTMENT TELEPHONED THE ERHARD SEMINAR TRAINING OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 4 AND SPOKE WITH CHARLES INGRASCI WHO PLANS TO JOIN ERHARD FOR THE PROPOSED TRIP TO BHUTAN. ERHARD IS ALREADY EN ROUTE TO INDIA. INGRASCI INDICATED ERHARD WOULD APPRECIATE AN EMBASSY INQUIRY AS TO THE STATUS OF HIS PARTY'S VISA APPLICATION. INGRASCI SEEMED AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF TRAVEL IN BHUTAN AND MADE CLEAR HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES DO NOT SEEK ANY OFFICIAL INTERVENTION OR PRESSURE TO OBTAIN THE VISAS. INGRASCI NOTED IN PASSING THAT CONGRESSMAN BURTON'S MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR SAXBE HAS BEEN DELAYED A FEW DAYS BUT SHOULD ARRIVE SHORTLY.

2. COMMENT - WE MADE NO PROMISES TO INGRASCI BUT WE DID NOT REJECT HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE EMBASSY INQUIRE AS TO THE STATUS OF THE PENDING APPLICATIONS. WE AGREE WITH THE EMBASSY IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO INTERCEDE OFFICIALLY TO INFLUENCE THE BHUTANESE TO GRANT THE ENTRY PERMITS.

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ON THE OTHER HAND, WE THINK AN EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICIAL

COULD INQUIRE ABOUT THE STATUS OF A VISA APPLICATION AT
THE BHUTANESE MISSION WITHOUT RISKING ANY REAL MISUNDER-
STANDING. THIS STRIKES US AS A ROUTINE CONSULAR SERVICE
FOR AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. KISSINGER

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